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WASHINGTON DC 20005

In re Patent No. 6,780,971 :  
Issue Date: August 24, 2004 :  
Application No. 09/901,187 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Filed: July 9, 2001 :  
Attorney Docket No. :  
2826.0040002/EJH/SAC :

This is a decision on the petition to reinstate an expired patent under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed July 16, 2009.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c) is GRANTED.

The above-identified patent issued August 24, 2004. Accordingly, the first maintenance fee could have been paid during the period from August 24, 2007 through February 24, 2008 without surcharge, or with a late payment surcharge during the period from February 25, 2008 through August 24, 2008. No maintenance fee having been received, the patent expired on August 25, 2008.

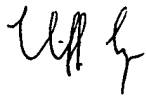
Since the instant petition was filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the

petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c). The maintenance fee in this case is accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Receipt of the \$1,640 petition surcharge and the \$490 maintenance fee is acknowledged.

The patented file is being returned to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3207.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff Congo", is positioned above the typed name.

Cliff Congo  
Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions